

REMARKS

I. Status Summary

Claims 7-14, 16, 17, 19-53, 55, 56, 58, 59, 61, and 63-143, and 145-147 are pending in the present application. Claims 7-14, 20-26, 46-53, 55, 58, 59, 61, 63, 80-93, and 141-143, and 145-147 are indicated as being allowed. Claims 19, 25-45, 56, 63-79, and 91-140 were previously withdrawn. Claims 16, 17, and 56 have been amended. Claims 146 and 147 have been canceled. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application as amended and based on the arguments set forth hereinbelow is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 16, 17, 19, and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present application. In particular, the Examiner states that "claim 1" in claims 16 and 17 has no antecedent basis. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to replace "claim 1" with "claim 7". Thus, claims 16 and 17 now properly depend upon a pending claim.

Regarding claim 19, applicants note that claim 19 was previously withdrawn. Claim 19 was rejected based on its dependence upon claim 16. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is now in proper form. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is also now in proper form.

Regarding claim 56, the Examiner states that "claim 54" in line 1 has no antecedent basis. Applicants note that claim 56 was previously withdrawn. Further,

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claim 56 has been amended to replace "claim 54" with "claim 46". Thus, claim 56 now properly depend upon a pending claim.

In view of the above amendments and remarks with respect to claims 16, 17, 19, and 56, applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the allowance of the claims at this time.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 146 and 147 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,441,449 to Xu et al. (hereinafter, "Xu") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,798,029 to Volant et al. (hereinafter, "Volant"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 146 and 147 have been canceled. Therefore, applicants respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 146 and 147 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

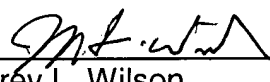
Although it is believed that no fee is due, The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies of payment associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426 to avoid the unintentional abandonment of the instant application

Respectfully submitted,

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